

The Jayhawk Planner

The University of Kansas
Graduate Program in Urban Planning

Spring 2007

Letter from the Chair

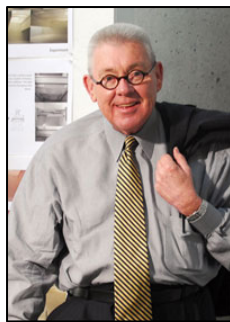
January 16, 2007 is a date that everyone associated with our Program will always remember. On that day, the Kansas Board of Regents changed the name of our School to the School of Architecture and *Urban Planning*. It is a milestone that all of us have looked toward for many years. I personally cherished this moment. When we first organized the Master of Urban Planning curriculum in the 1970s, I wondered if we could succeed and thrive in this School. We have. The name change serves a greater purpose than a symbolic recognition of the fact that planning is integral to this School. It is about marketing our Program to prospective students. We are reviewing how we advertise ourselves to undergraduates and how we can improve upon our past efforts.

Jim Mayo



In Memoriam – Tom Galloway

The founder of the Urban Planning Program, Tom Galloway, died on March 11th. We were fortunate to have Tom make a visit to our 30th reunion in 2005, and he gave a wonderful talk about how our Program had advanced since the days he was here. After leaving KU, Tom became the Chair of City Planning at the University of Rhode Island. Later, he became the Dean of the School of Architecture, Design, and Planning at Iowa State University. Finally, he became the Dean of the School of Architecture at Georgia Tech where he remained for many years.



Those who took courses from Tom will remember the verve and vigor he brought to planning theory. His students left that course inspired about planning and seeing new ways that planners can make a difference in practice.

Tom Galloway was always a rigorous but sensitive leader. He expected his faculty members to publish, be rigorous in teaching, and to think beyond our horizons as faculty members. When I think of academic leaders in our profession, I always think of Tom. Due to his career turn toward administration, he was not prolific in publishing books and journals. But Tom could always turn the head of anyone in consideration of how he could make you reconceptualize how to see a theoretical issue or a practice problem. He will be missed by all of those who knew and admired him.

Bonnie Johnson - New Faculty Member

This fall, Dr. Bonnie Johnson joined our faculty. She is a familiar face. Bonnie graduated with a M.U.P. from KU in 1991. She later practiced in Texas, Missouri, and Kansas, and she recently completed her Ph.D. in political science from KU. She will be involved with the Land-Use Planning and Urban Design concentration.



Conferences

Our faculty members' involvement in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) annual conference in Ft. Worth, Texas, was quite high. Most of us presented papers. Daniel Serda presented "Private Planning for the Public Realm: Civic Design and the Demise of Public Planning." Kirk McClure provided "Do Tight Housing Markets Inhibit Racial, Ethnic, and Poverty Deconcentration?" Stacey White offered "Land Protection Planning in a Contested Landscape: Mapping the Terrain." Bonnie Johnson presented "Civic Bureaucracy and the Role of Planners." Jim Mayo gave "Capitalist Dynamics and New Urbanist Principles: Junctions and Disjunctions in Project Development."

Beyond these papers, faculty members played key roles in administering this conference. Stacey White was the Chair of the Environmental Planning and Resource Management track of the conference. Kirk McClure served a similar role as the Co-Chair of the Fannie Mae track in Housing and Community Development.

Bonnie Johnson presented “Making the Most of Public Service Motivation” at the annual conference of the Midwest Political Science Association. McClure also attended the annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association in Montreal. At that conference he presented the paper “Deconcentration of Poverty Using the Housing Choice Voucher Program.” This research compares the degree of success that different groups have in gaining access to low-poverty areas using the voucher program.

Faculty Publications

The planning faculty continues to be prolific in their research. Bonnie Johnson has published “Competitive States in U.S. Presidential Elections: Electoral College Bias or Candidate Centered Politics?” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 35 (2, 2005): 337-355. Kirk McClure now has in print “Comments on Victoria Basolo and Mai Nguyen, Does Policy Matter?” *Housing Policy Debate* 16 (3 & 4, 2005): 347-359; “High Housing Cost Burden in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.” *Cityscape* 8 (2, 2005): 5-20; and “The Low-Income Tax Credit Program Goes Mainstream and Moves to the Suburbs.” *Housing Policy Debate* 17 (3, 2006): 419-446. Daniel Serda has published “Traffic Signals and Community Character.” *Design Brief* 1(June, 2006). Stacey White’s writing includes (with Michael Boswell) “Planning for Water Quality: Implementation of the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program in California and Kansas.” *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 49 (1, 2006): 141-160; and (with Kelly Kindscher) “Natural Resources and Open Space Assessment and Planning Recommendations for Miami County, Kansas.” *Kansas Biological Survey Open File Report No. 126*, 2006.

On Campus

Stacey White is now the Director of Academic Programs for the new KU Center for Sustainability. She hopes to involve Urban Planning students in some of the Center’s work, which includes sustainability research, service learning, and fostering sustainable campus operations.

Off Campus

This past year Daniel Serda participated in a variety of activities with the Kansas City Design Center. He has coordinated public education and speakers on such topics as *Civic Alliances for the Public Realm*, *Transforming Public Parks*, *Excellence in the Design of the Public Realm*, *The City as a Work of Art*, *Great Streets*, and *Landmark Bridges: A Legacy of Swiss Design*.

Faculty members have been providing a number of contributions to community service and practice. Alan Black served on the Public Transit Advisory Committee

and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee of the City of Lawrence. Jim Mayo is involved in being an expert witness for the U.S. Attorney General’s Office in regard to a forthcoming U.S. Supreme Court case involving war memorials. He also prepared a survey instrument and general analysis for the Argentine Neighborhood Association in Kansas City, Kansas. Kirk McClure recently updated the consolidated housing and community development plan for Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He appeared as an expert witness in legal trial questioning the wisdom of placing a regional shopping center in a single-family neighborhood. Finally, he is working on an analysis of impediments to fair housing for a county in Georgia outside of Atlanta. Daniel Serda was a member of the Steering Committee for the City-Wide Master Plan, Unified Government of Wyandotte County in Kansas City. For Kansas City, Missouri, he served on the Steering Committee for revising the City’s Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance as well as on the Community Advisory Group for the Reconstruction of the Paseo Bridge.

Alan Black - Retirement

After 26 years at the University of Kansas, Professor Alan Black is retiring from the Graduate Program in Urban Planning this May. Despite 47 years in the profession, planning was not necessarily what a young Alan Black saw for his future. As a child he loved memorizing population figures of big cities and maps. He would draw maps of the town where he grew up, Belmont, Massachusetts, but baseball was on his mind in high school. The Boston Red Sox were the dominant team at the time and he was student manager of the baseball team. He was also editor of the student newspaper. As a result, he thought he would become a sports writer.



Eventually, sports writing led him to urban planning. After graduating from Harvard, Alan became a newspaper reporter or editor for two newspapers, one in New York and the other in Hayward, California. As a reporter for the *San Jose Mercury* he covered Fremont as a general reporter. Fremont was a city very interested in planning. They hired a planning consultant to prepare a master plan and Alan spent a great deal of time covering the planning commission. It was at this time that he felt the pull of a life in planning. As Black explains, “I got fed up with reporting . . . I was good at writing feature stories but getting the hard news that goes on the front page I wasn’t so good at and in the meantime I had gotten interested in planning from spending so much time covering it and getting to know some of the professional planners.”

After graduating from Berkeley with his master's in city planning in 1960, Alan applied to work on the Chicago Area Transportation Study which was just getting underway. "Professor Mel Webber told me that the (Study) is on the cutting edge now on research on land use as well as on transportation and so I applied by mail." Alan got the job without so much as an interview and worked in Chicago for three years. Later, he received a Fulbright to study in the Netherlands where he worked with planners in the City of Amsterdam. He returned to the U.S. and took a job with the Tri-State Transportation Commission in New York. Paul Davidoff, who had moved from Philadelphia to New York City, lured Alan into teaching. "(Davidoff) started this planning school at Hunter College . . . and he had no transportation course and he asked me if I would teach a course one evening a week in transportation planning so I did that. I just got very enthused about that and they had very good students. So I decided then that I wanted to be a professor."

After "a very ambitious dissertation," Alan earned his Ph.D. from Cornell in 1975. His first full-time teaching job was at the University of Texas at Austin. "I spent six years there, got promoted, got tenure and I decided I wanted to be chair of a planning department." Alan wanted to be the chair of a department because those professors he respected the most and sought to emulate were chairs, Jack Kent of Berkeley and Barclay Jones at Cornell. In 1981, Alan came to chair the planning program at the University of Kansas. His first year, there were only three students in the entering class. Probably one of Alan's biggest accomplishments as chair was working with Dean Max Lucas to convince the Board of Regents that two planning programs, one at Kansas State (the older program) and one at KU were worthwhile and to not eliminate one of the programs. "I think it was that we emphasized that we were preparing students to work in cities particularly large cities like Kansas City whereas the Kansas State program was more oriented to rural areas and small towns. So I think that probably made the difference that we really had two different kinds of curriculum."

Looking back over his career, Alan says, "Ever since I went into planning I've never considered leaving that field." "Mostly I think it is interesting. It's not always successful and planners don't always get what they want or recommend but even when things don't turn out as well, there's lots of interesting things." He thinks he will be most remembered for his book, *Urban Mass Transportation Planning*, because even though it is now twelve years old, it has not been replaced by another textbook on the subject. He will also always be linked with the comprehensive plan because of his chapter on the subject in the famous "green book" on planning published by the International City Managers Association. In addition to his written works, there are

hundreds of planners who learned history, theory, economics, and transportation from him.

Eventually Alan may travel more, but will more than likely devote more time to volunteer organizations like the League of Women Voters. He has been chair of their Land Use Committee for several years and the League has been the main watchdog in Lawrence for planning issues. The Graduate Program in Urban Planning will not be letting Alan go too soon. For the foreseeable future, he will continue to teach one or two courses. Students will continue to benefit from his experience, his well-known slide shows, and his stories about all the great figures in planning he has known.

Class Projects

This fall, students in transportation planning addressed the issues of excessive traffic, noise, and speeding on 27th Street in Lawrence that the Indian Hills Neighborhood Association (IHNA) heard from residents about for many years. Students in our Introduction to Transportation Planning individually created a traffic calming plan for 27th Street between Louisiana and Iowa streets. Their plans were shown to IHNA residents and they voted on which plans or parts of plans they liked best. IHNA has now formed a committee to talk to all those living along 27th Street to gauge their interest in pursuing a project. This story was picked up by the *Lawrence Journal World* and Channel 6 News here in Lawrence.

The Introduction to Land Use Planning class wrapped up their Fall 2006 semester with an open house showcasing their land use plans for the Southeast corner of Lawrence. The Southeast Lawrence Area plan has been much debated over the past couple of years with a deadlock between those seeing the area for industrial uses and others lobbying for more residential development. Students looked through Planning Commission and City Commission minutes and heard from current and past Planning Commission members to gather public input for their plans. Each one created their own vision statement, goals, objectives, and land use maps. Their maps were shown at the open house which drew Planning Commission members, city staff, KDOT staff, area planners, the Dean of the School of Architecture, and Planning and Architecture faculty.

In the spring semester, Stacey White's Environmental Planning Implementation class is assisting in the preliminary planning with a community group in Fort Scott, Kansas to develop the Marmaton Riverfront into a community asset. The study is focusing on ecologically sensitive approaches to riverfront design, and identifying the various steps the City will need to follow to bring this proposal to fruition.

Student Life

New officers took over the KU student planning organization (KAPS, Kansas Association of Planning Students) in April. Below is a little about each one so you can rest easy that KU planning is in safe hands. Five out of the six are in the Environmental Planning concentration and four of the six are in UBPL 802: Politics and Planning for the Fall 2007 semester. Plus, the past KAPS president is in UBPL 802 as well. There is probably some sort of message there.

The new president is Steph Mott who is in her second semester. Steph says that the first year students have a real camaraderie which helps everybody cope with the pressures of graduate school. When asked if planning school was like what she thought, she said, "I took about three classes as an undergrad to find out this was what I wanted. It is harder though." This summer Steph is taking advantage of a study abroad program through the University of Florida's Department of Urban and Regional Planning. From May until June she will be studying urban planning in Brazil. The credits she earns will count toward her degree at KU. Study abroad for planning students is something Steph would like to promote. "I didn't have a sense of myself until I went abroad for the first time."

Each of the new officers were asked to answer a short questionnaire including questions on where they were from originally, their anticipated graduation date, their ideal planning job, and how they would describe their perfect day. They were also asked to go to The Superhero Quiz website (www.thesuperheroquiz.com) and answer some questions to see which superhero they were most like. Here are their answers.



Steph Mott, President (Expected Graduation - May '08)

- Hutchinson, KS
- Environmental
- A job that lets me utilize all the fascinating information gained in our program combined with my eco-friendly ideas in an environment full of fun people. And work for bosses who appreciate that sometimes a girl needs a beer and some dancin'.
- (A perfect day) involves any combination of the following: beers, beaches, bikinis, the kids and solving the world's problems.
- Wonder Woman

Phil Hood, Vice-president (May '08)

- I am an army-brat, so every two years my family would move around. I was born in Ft. Clayton, Panama and after my father retired from the military my family moved to St. Louis, MO where both sides of my family are from.
- Environmental
- My ideal planning job would be to work for a small environmental planning consulting firm where I would get a 3-day weekend every week.
- My perfect day would be waking in plenty of time to relax and have two cups of coffee before heading to school/work. The temperature for the day would be 85-90 degrees and sunny. After school/work I would relax over a beer at Free State Brewery.
- Ironman

Efon Epanty, Secretary (2008)

- Buea, Cameroon
- Environmental
- International non-governmental: Issues that relate to the environment, economic development and transportation
- Making a positive contribution in the life of others, especially the less privileged people in our communities.
- Superman

Dan Nelson, Treasurer (Spring '08)

- Shawnee, KS
- Transportation
- A highly paid one, if those exist.
- A day on vacation is always perfect.
- Superman

Eric Anderson, State Representative (Fall '08)

- Beaverton, Oregon
- Environmental & Land Use
- Anything in a 3rd world country (I feel as if I would have a greater impact) or eventually becoming a politician.
- Traveling overseas with friends
- The Flash

Justin Montgomery, National Representative (Spring '08)

- Born in Grand Forks, ND – raised in Topeka, KS
- Environmental & Land Use
- An important/valued contributor to a city/county organization that believes in planning.
- Everyday can be perfect, just need to realize how lucky we are to be alive and in the United States.
- Superman